



MINUTES

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 19, 2019 | 8:30 a.m. | 450 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher, Chair
Rep. John Knotwell, Chair
Sen. Don L. Ipson
Sen. Jani Iwamoto
Sen. Todd Weiler
Rep. Kyle R. Andersen
Rep. Brady Brammer
Rep. Suzanne Harrison
Rep. Jon Hawkins
Rep. Karen Kwan
Rep. Phil Lyman

Rep. Marc K. Roberts
Rep. Travis M. Seegmiller

Members Absent:

President J. Stuart Adams
Rep. Val L. Peterson
Rep. Andrew Stoddard

Staff Present:

Mr. Brian J. Bean, Policy Analyst
Mr. Thomas R. Vaughn, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Tracey Fredman, Administrative Assistant

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

Chair Knotwell called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

1 . Committee Business

MOTION: Sen. Thatcher moved to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2019, meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 7 - 0 - 9.

Yeas-7

Rep. B. Brammer
Rep. S. Harrison
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. J. Knotwell
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. M. Roberts
Sen. D. Thatcher

Nays-0

Absent-9

Sen. J. Adams
Rep. K. Andersen
Rep. J. Hawkins
Sen. D. Ipson
Rep. K. Kwan
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. T. Seegmiller
Rep. A. Stoddard
Sen. T. Weiler

2 . Sunset Review: Special Service District Bonds Secured by Mineral Lease

Brian Bean, Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, discussed the sunset review process.

LeGrande Bitter, Executive Director, Utah Association of Special Districts, provided an overview of how special service district bonds have been utilized.

Randy Larson, Bond Counsel, Gilmore & Bell, discussed the benefits of special service district bonds secured by mineral lease payments.

MOTION: Sen. Thatcher moved to open a committee bill file regarding a sunset extension for special service district bonds secured by mineral lease payments. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 0 - 8.

Yeas-8

Rep. B. Brammer
Rep. S. Harrison
Sen. D. Ipson
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. J. Knotwell
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. M. Roberts
Sen. D. Thatcher

Nays-0Absent-8

Sen. J. Adams
Rep. K. Andersen
Rep. J. Hawkins
Rep. K. Kwan
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. T. Seegmiller
Rep. A. Stoddard
Sen. T. Weiler

3 . Draft Legislation: "Abusive Conduct Reporting Amendments"[3 - 2020 General Session Draft Legislation "Abusive Conduct Reporting Amendments"](#)

Rep. Keven J. Stratton, participating by phone, introduced draft legislation "Abusive Conduct Reporting Amendments."

Tom Vaughn, Associate General Counsel, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, reviewed provisions of the draft legislation and responded to questions from the committee.

Jacey Skinner, attorney, Ballard Spahr LLP, spoke in support of the draft legislation and responded to questions from the committee.

Todd Losser, Executive Director, Utah Public Employees Association, spoke in favor of the draft legislation.

Akiko Kawamara, Administrator, Career Service Review Office, indicated that her office would like to be involved in clarifying certain language in the bill.

Rebecca Parr, Employment and Labor Relations Director, Department of Human Resource Management, discussed the confidentiality of abusive conduct investigations.

Tom Vaughn, Associate General Counsel, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, noted that the legislation does not require an investigation to be conducted.

Paul Garver, Executive Director, Department of Human Resource Management, responded to a question about personnel needed to implement the draft legislation.

Denise Halverson, Utah Healthy Workplace Advocates, spoke in favor of the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Thatcher moved to approve 2020 General Session Draft Legislation "Abusive Conduct Reporting Amendments" as a committee bill. The motion passed with a vote of 10 - 0 - 6.

Yeas-10

Rep. B. Brammer
Rep. S. Harrison
Rep. J. Hawkins
Sen. D. Ipson
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. J. Knotwell
Rep. K. Kwan
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. M. Roberts
Sen. D. Thatcher

Nays-0Absent-6

Sen. J. Adams
Rep. K. Andersen
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. T. Seegmiller
Rep. A. Stoddard
Sen. T. Weiler

4 . Sunset Review: Martha Hughes Cannon Statue Oversight Committee

Rep. Karen Kwan discussed the sunset review of the Martha Hughes Statue Oversight Committee.

Erin Wynn, Executive Director, Martha Hughes Statue Oversight Committee, noted that the existing sunset date will allow sufficient time for the committee to conclude its business.

5 . By-Mail Voting

[5 - By-Mail Voting - Issue Overview \(Utah Clerk's Legislative Policy Committee\)](#)

Ricky Hatch, Clerk/Auditor, Weber County, discussed a proposal to conduct a comprehensive review of statutes that govern voting methods and to redraft statutes to reflect “voter’s choice” practices that are largely used across the state’s counties.

Brian McKenzie, Director of Elections, Davis County, discussed the committee's review of statutes that govern voting and responded to questions from the committee.

Justin Lee, Director of Elections, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, responded to questions from the committee.

Kory Holdaway, ranked choice voting advocate, spoke in favor of by-mail voting.

6 . Congressional Vacancies

[6 - Congressional Vacancies, A Prospective Plan](#)

Brian Bean, Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, presented a prospective plan for addressing congressional vacancies.

Tom Vaughn, Associate General Counsel, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, clarified differences between the process of filling a vacancy in the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate.

MOTION: Sen. Thatcher moved to open a committee legislative rules resolution to create a process for nominating individuals to fill a vacancy in the United States Senate. The motion passed with a vote of 9 - 0 - 7.

Yeas-9

Rep. K. Andersen
Rep. B. Brammer
Rep. S. Harrison
Rep. J. Hawkins
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. J. Knotwell
Rep. K. Kwan
Rep. M. Roberts
Sen. D. Thatcher

Nays-0

Absent-7

Sen. J. Adams
Sen. D. Ipson
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. T. Seegmiller
Rep. A. Stoddard
Sen. T. Weiler

7 . Local Government Disclosure Requirements

[7 - Presentation, Local Disclosures](#)

Derek Brenchley, Deputy Director of Elections, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, discussed research regarding the number of local candidates that report no campaign contribution or expenditures and responded to questions from the committee.

Cameron Diehl, Executive Director, Utah League of Cities and Towns, indicated that the league does not see a need for additional oversight on local campaign disclosures.

8 . Standardize Petition Policies

[8 - Petitions](#)

Ryan Cowley, Elections Director, Weber County, discussed the need to unify statutory processes for processing petition signatures.

Derek Brenchley, Deputy Director of Elections, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, discussed the need to clarify statute regarding different types of petitions.

9 . GRAMA Excessive Requesters

This item was not discussed.

10 . Other Items/Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Lyman moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 4.

Yeas-12

Rep. K. Andersen
Rep. B. Brammer
Rep. S. Harrison
Rep. J. Hawkins
Sen. D. Ipson
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. J. Knotwell
Rep. K. Kwan
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. M. Roberts
Rep. T. Seegmiller
Sen. D. Thatcher

Nays-0

Absent-4

Sen. J. Adams
Rep. V. Peterson
Rep. A. Stoddard
Sen. T. Weiler

Chair Knotwell adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.